

I CLAIM:

1. A method for awarding a player of a casino game comprising:

providing a hidden bonus feature to the player in the casino game, the casino game not disclosing information to the player as to what the hidden bonus feature is and/or how the player responds to the hidden bonus feature,

receiving a response in the casino game from the player after providing the hidden bonus feature,

delivering a bonus award in the casino game to the player when the response from the player is correct.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein providing the hidden bonus feature occurs when one or a predetermined combination of game symbols appears in the casino game during play of the casino game.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein providing the hidden bonus feature occurs when a predetermined event occurs in the casino game.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein providing the hidden bonus feature occurs when a hidden bonus feature display randomly occurs in the casino game.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein providing the hidden bonus feature occurs randomly.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein the existence of a hidden bonus feature is displayed on the casino game.

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7. The method of claim 1 wherein the bonus award is independent of the play of the casino game, thereby affording players who know how to correctly respond to hidden bonus feature a higher expected return than players who don't know to correctly respond to the hidden bonus feature.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein the response is correct when an input is received from the player within a predetermined time period.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein the faster a player inputs a correct answer in the predetermined time period, the greater the award.

10. The method of claim 8 wherein resuming play of the casino game occurs after the predetermined time frame times out.

11. The method of claim 8 wherein play of the casino game continues during the predetermined time frame.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein if the player provides a response for play of the casino game prior to providing a response for the hidden bonus feature, then the predetermined time frame immediately times out.

13. The method of claim 1 wherein the casino game is a bonus game and wherein the bonus game is played in conjunction with an underlying gaming machine.

14. The method of claim 1 wherein the casino game is played in a gaming machine.

15. The method of claim 1 wherein providing the hidden bonus feature originates in a controller of a progressive system connected to the casino game.

16. The method of claim 1 wherein playing of the casino game by the player occurs over the Internet.

17. The method of claim 1 wherein the hidden bonus feature is an animated sequence.

18. The method of claim 17 wherein the hidden bonus animated sequence is a variation of animated sequences appearing in the casino game.

19. The method of claim 18 wherein the response from the player is the player touching the hidden bonus animated sequence.

20. The method of claim 1 wherein the hidden bonus feature is a graphic.

21. The method of claim 20 wherein the graphic is a variation of graphics appearing in the casino game.

22. The method of claim 1 wherein the player is cued as to the hidden bonus feature.

23. The method of claim 1 wherein the response from the player is the player touching the hidden bonus feature.

24. The method of claim 1 wherein the hidden bonus feature

is provided at the same point in the casino game.

25. The method for awarding a player of a casino game comprising:

providing a hidden bonus feature to the player, the casino game having player instructions that do not disclose how the player is to respond to the hidden bonus feature,

receiving an input from the player within a predetermined time period after providing the hidden bonus feature,

delivering a bonus award in the casino game to the player when the response from the player occurs within the predetermined time period, wherein the delivered bonus award is independent of the play of the casino game, the play of the casino game independent of the provided the hidden bonus feature, the received input from the player and the delivered bonus award.

26. The method of claim 25 wherein the casino game is a gaming machine.

27. The method of claim 25 wherein the casino game is an underlying gaming machine having a casino bonus game.

28. A method for awarding a player of a casino bonus game, the casino bonus game played by the player in conjunction with an underlying gaming machine, the method comprising:

randomly displaying a hidden bonus feature to the player during play of the casino bonus game, the casino bonus game and the underlying gaming machine having player instructions that do not disclose how the player is to respond to the hidden bonus feature,

receiving an input from the player within a predetermined time period after displaying the hidden bonus feature,

- 10 providing a bonus award in the casino bonus game to the
player when the response from the player wherein the provided
bonus award is independent of any other awards from play of the
casino bonus game and the underlying gaming machine,
resuming play of the casino bonus game when the hidden
15 bonus feature is over and/or the response from the player is not
correct.

29. The method of claim 28 wherein the hidden bonus
feature further displays a value for the award.